

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-15 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 12 and 14 are independent.

Claims 11-15 have been added and claims 1, 7 and 8 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 7 and 8 because of several informalities. In order to overcome this objection, Applicants have amended claims 7 and 8 in order to correct the deficiencies pointed out by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over 2003/0098650 (Adachi) in view of 4,734,580 (Rodrigo) and US 4,729,057 (Halleck). Further, claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adachi, Rodrigo, Halleck and further in view of US 6,172,891 (O'Neal) and claims 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adachi, Rodrigo, Halleck and further in view of US 3,863,169 (Knight). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

The Examiner states that Rodrigo discloses a conductive protecting grille 16 connected to a certain potential (ground) and the wire between the grill and ground is a discharge resistance connected between the grille and interior circuit if the ground is the ground side of the interior circuit.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claim now distinguish the invention from the prior art, including Rodrigo. Claim 1, as amended, recites that the discharge resistance is spaced from the conductive protecting grille. The discharge resistance (ground wire) of Rodrigo must be

connected to the grille, not spaced from the grille. New claim 11, dependent on claim 1, recites that the discharge resistance connected to the conductive grille by a wire. Likewise, new independent claim 12 recites that the discharge resistance is connected to the conductive protecting grille by a wire. Clearly, the ground wire of Rodrigo cannot be connected to the grille by another wire.

New independent claim 14 recites a casing, said casing having conductive protecting grille connected to a certain potential and means for maintaining the potential of the conductive protecting grille. A certain voltage is applied to the grille to form an electric field on the casing to accelerate the escape of ions produced in the anion generator. In order to maintain the potential of the grille, a discharge resistance 4 is placed between the grille and interior circuit. This arrangement is in stark contrast to the structure of Rodrigo which has a grille connected to ground.

The presently pending claims define the invention over the prior art.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Chris McDonald, Registration No. 41,533, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/542,441
Amendment dated October 24, 2008
Reply to Office Action of July 25, 2008

Docket No.: 3410-0108PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

James M. Slattery *JMS*

Registration No.: 28,380

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant

for

#43,368